Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A keyboard device for a keyboard musical instrument, comprising:

keys each opening downward, and having side walls and a front wall, and an abutment portion provided inside said side walls and formed inside of the front wall of said keys, said abutment portion having a lower end located at ~~approximately~~ the same height as lower ends of said side walls, said keys each performing pivotal downward motion when depressed; and

stoppers arranged under said keys in a manner associated therewith, respectively, for abutment of said side walls and said abutment portion of an associated one of said keys thereagainst, thereby stopping the downward pivotal motion of said associated key, said stoppers having a shock-absorbing property.

Claim 2. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said abutment portion is formed by at least one rib.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 2,

wherein said rib is formed by a plate-shaped rib having a lower surface extending along a plane including lower end faces of said side walls and wherein the lower surface includes a largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib.

Claim 4. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 2,

wherein said keys are formed by synthetic resin molded articles in which each key is integrally molded with said rib.

Claim 5. (Original) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 3,

wherein said lower surface of said rib is flush with said lower end faces of said side walls.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A keyboard device for a keyboard musical instrument, comprising:

keys each opening downward, and having side walls and a front wall, and an abutment portion provided inside said side walls and formed inside of the front wall of said keys, said abutment portion having a lower end located at ~~approximately~~ the same height as lower ends of said side walls, said keys each performing pivotal downward motion when depressed; and

stoppers arranged under said keys in a manner associated therewith, respectively, for abutment of said side walls and said abutment portion of an associated one of said keys thereagainst, thereby stopping the downward pivotal motion of said associated key, said stoppers having a shock-absorbing property,

wherein said abutment portion is formed by a plurality of ribs and wherein said plurality of ribs engage with a one of said stoppers.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 6,

wherein said keys are formed by synthetic resin molded articles in which each key is integrally molded with said ribs.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A keyboard device for a keyboard musical instrument, comprising:

keys each opening downward, and having side walls and a front wall, and an abutment portion provided inside said side walls and formed inside of the front wall of said keys, said abutment portion having a lower end located at ~~approximately~~ the same height as lower ends of said side walls, said keys each performing pivotal downward motion when depressed; and

stoppers arranged under said keys in a manner associated therewith, respectively, for abutment of said side walls and said abutment portion of an

associated one of said keys thereagainst, thereby stopping the downward pivotal motion of said associated key, said stoppers having a shock-absorbing property,

wherein said abutment portion is formed by at least one plate-shaped rib having a lower surface extending along a plane including lower end faces of said side walls and wherein the lower surface includes a largest surface area of the plate-shaped rib, and coming into surface abutment with said stoppers.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 8,

wherein said keys are formed by synthetic resin molded articles in which each key is integrally molded with said rib.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A keyboard device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said lower surface of said rib is flush with said lower end faces of said side walls.